

5. (Amended) The device defined in claim 3, wherein the spokes include inner and outer ends, one of the inner and outer ends including wire mesh supporting the one end on the associated one of the inner and outer housings.
7. (Amended) The device defined in claim 25, wherein the spokes are made from an alloy steel material including nickel.
8. (Amended) The device defined in claim 25, wherein the spokes have a cross section that is less than about 1.5 mm in its narrowest dimension.
9. (Amended) The device defined in claim 25, wherein the spokes include inner and outer ends, one of the inner and outer ends including wire mesh supporting the one end on the associated one of the inner and outer housings.
11. (Amended) The device defined in claim 17, wherein the support slidably engages one of the inner and outer housings.
12. (Amended) The device defined in claim 25, wherein the spokes are flexible in a direction perpendicular to their length, such that the spokes flex to accommodate a relative increase in a length of the inner housing over the outer housing when the inner housing thermally expands significantly more than the outer housing.
13. (Amended) The device defined in claim 25, wherein the spokes are elongated and have a length to width ratio of at least about 3 to 1.

09889620-071901

14. (Amended) The device defined in claim 25, wherein the spokes have a tubular cross section.

16. (Amended) The device defined in claim 17, wherein the exhaust treatment device includes a catalytic material.

17. (Amended) An exhaust treatment device for vehicles comprising:

an inner housing having an inlet and an outlet defining a longitudinal direction and having a thermally-activated exhaust treatment device therein chosen to reduce emissions from the exhaust of a combustion engine as the exhaust passes from the inlet to the outlet;

an outer housing enclosing the inner housing but characteristically not contacting the inner housing, the outer housing including an inlet and an outlet that align with the inlet and outlet of the inner housing, the inner and outer housings including walls forming a sealed cavity around the inner housing, the cavity having a vacuum drawn therein; and

a support that supports the inner housing in the outer housing, the support including a radially-extending body and including a foot that engages at least one of the inner and outer housings, the foot including an insulative material different from the body, the insulative material being chosen to minimize conductance of heat.

25. (New) The device defined in claim 17, wherein the radially-extending body includes spokes.

09889620-071901